U.S. Ship Sailed Chinese Waters

HONG KONG, Oct. 30—The American freighter Thunderhead, which was intercepted by Chinese gunboats outside Hong Kong harbor Monday, strayed from the main shipping lane into the colony and took a route through a channel between two groups of Chinese-held islands, the U.S. consulate confirmed today.

The 6161-ton freighter took a channel about four miles wide between the Kaipong and Lema Islands, five miles south of Hong Kong, a consulate spokesman said today after checking the captain's charts.

Two Chinese gunboats fired warning flares across the bow of the Thunderhead, calling upon the ship to stop and drop anchor, but the captain ignored the signals and steamed into the harbor.

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